

# Zahava Sherez | Sculptor

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Artist Statement

December 2009

## Perfect Moments

My definition of a Perfect Moment: when two entities, be they human, object, animal, or nature, are able to hold on to their inner core, to the integrity of their identity, yet find a place of connection where they mold to each other creating mutual support.

Why vessels? I have been attracted to vessels since an early age. I grew up in a country where archeology is everywhere, where holding a piece of clay from a broken vessel awakens the imagination. Who was that person that created that container hundreds or thousands of years ago? What was stored in this vessel? Food, coins, stories? What secrets?

To me vessels are a metaphor for anything that contains a treasure, be it tangible or emotional, spiritual. Here are two entities captured in a perfect moment of connection sharing, if only for that brief moment, their inner treasures.

This is an installation of individual pieces, 50 in total. A view at perfect/imperfect moments that make a Life.

## Technique

I work with clay as a carver. I mix various clays, of different textures and colors, to achieve the look of an ancient vessel that has been reassembled. I begin with a solid mound of clay and use my body, a mallet and knives to rough the form. When I'm satisfied with what has appeared I let it dry for a while letting it harden to a point that it can be hollowed out without collapsing.

At this point I refine the design, perfect the lines and create the surface I'm interested in – textured or burnished. Now the piece is put aside to rest, to get used to its new form, allowed to dry slowly (4-6 weeks depending on size and weather). The work is now ready to be fired.

I low fire my work very slowly (10-18 hours) to cones 05-2 (1900-2200 F, depending on the piece) and let the kiln cool down for 24 hours. This is when the final steps happen. I cover the surface with multiple layers (5-20) of cold patina using water-soluble pigments as stains. I let the piece rest for a few days coming back to it for review and final touches. The work is documented: named, numbered, photographed and ready to be displayed.